



EIP-AGRI SEMINAR KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS
3-4 DECEMBER 2015 - DUBLIN, IRELAND



EIP-AGRI Seminar 'Promoting creativity and learning through agricultural knowledge systems and interactive innovation'

Thursday 3 December – Friday 4 December 2015
CityNorth Hotel, Gormanston, County Meath (near Dublin), Ireland

On 3-4 December 2015, DG AGRI is organizing a **two day seminar dedicated to promoting understanding of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) and to highlighting practical examples of the changes taking place in approaches to knowledge exchange, learning and innovation in the agricultural, forestry and rural development sectors.**

National / regional AKIS are evolving rapidly. The traditional, top-down linear model is increasingly outdated. Knowledge no longer flows from researchers, trainers and technical experts only. Mutual learning between practitioners and other key actors is increasingly important and new forms of media and information technology provide exciting new possibilities for working together and exchanging knowledge.

However the different parts of AKIS, including training/education, advice and research, face many challenges and are governed by different incentives which can hinder synergy and cooperation. New approaches and new tools take time to become fully established and need new skills to make wise and effective use of them. Language barriers exist and in many cases there are still gaps between research, advice and practice which block the two way flow of information/knowledge and limit the interaction between research and practice that is needed to foster innovative solutions to sectoral needs and opportunities.

We need to understand how farmers and other innovation actors create knowledge, where they get their information from and if their AKIS is providing sufficient incentives / opportunities for them to exchange knowledge, develop new ideas and support interactive learning and innovation. The Dublin seminar therefore has the following specific objectives:

1. To **develop our common understanding** of AKIS as diverse, flowing systems that are constantly evolving and creating new opportunities for effective knowledge exchange, learning and innovation;
2. To **promote** the concept of "interactive innovation" and how / where it fits into AKIS, highlighting especially the difference between the development of new ideas and the use of existing knowledge;
3. To **explore** how farmers and other innovation actors engage within AKIS and whether it meets their needs, and in doing so **highlight** areas / issues where the flow of information and knowledge needs to be improved;
4. To **raise awareness** of the new tools, approaches and perspectives being used to enhance knowledge exchange, learning and innovation in the agricultural, forestry and rural development sectors.



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Programme

Please note that this seminar will be held in English only.

Day 1 – Thursday, 3 December 2015

Developing our understanding of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS)

12:00 – 13:00 Registration and buffet lunch

13:00 – 13:30 Welcome and introduction

- *Opening*
Mr Aldo Longo, Director General aspects of rural development and research, Directorate-General Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- *Welcome*
Mr Gerry Boyle, Director Teagasc, Ireland
- *The Food Wise Strategic Policy and Agricultural Knowledge Systems*
Ms Brid Cannon, Assistant Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

13:30 – 15:00 Opening presentations – with Questions & Answers

- Agricultural knowledge systems and interactive innovation – how can AKIS support innovation actors' learning and creativity? *Ms Inge van Oost, Directorate-General Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission*
- How can advice and knowledge be better organised to support farmers? *Ms Katrin Prager, The James Hutton Institute, UK*
- How can National Rural Networks fit into the existing AKIS and help organise knowledge flows *Mr Pawel Szabelak, Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*

15:00 – 15:45 Coffee break, networking and PROAKIS poster session

15:45 – 17:45 Building an effective Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System for the future.

An interactive discussion to share experiences and ideas on how knowledge and information flows currently function, and how these flows can be improved / enhanced

Facilitated by Mr Mark Redman, EIP-AGRI Service Point

17:45 – 18:15 Feedback from the interactive discussion

19:00 – 21:30 Networking dinner and social event



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Day 2 – Friday, 4 December 2015

Practical experiences of improving knowledge exchange and promoting interactive innovation

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:30 Address by Commissioner Phil Hogan

9:30 – 10:20 Delivering an integrated package of knowledge, information, advice and training tools
A keynote presentation from Mr Tom Kelly, Teagasc, Ireland - followed by Questions and Answers

10:20 – 10:35 Introduction to the interactive discussions *Mr Mark Redman, EIP-AGRI Service Point*

10:35 – 11:15 Coffee break and student poster session (UCD/Teagasc Masters in Agricultural Innovation Support)

11:15 – 12:45 Success stories with finding, creating and using new knowledge

Participants will have the opportunity to actively share their practical experiences in 8 parallel discussions about new tools, approaches and perspectives for improving knowledge exchange and promoting interactive innovation:

- *Farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange*
- *Social media for farmers*
- *Farmer-led interactive innovation and learning*
- *Innovative agricultural media*
- *Better farm performance through bench-marking*
- *Knowledge networking*
- *Thinking out of the box*
- *Inspiration for future farming*

12:45 – 13:00 Short break and return to main meeting room

13:00 – 13:45 Reporting back

What have we learnt about the new tools, approaches and perspectives being used to enhance knowledge exchange, learning and innovation?

13:45 – 14:00 Closing

Mr John Bell, Director Bioeconomy, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission

14:00 Light lunch and goodbye